THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
STATE OF MONTANA

RUSSELL C. FAGG
DISTRICT JUDGE-DEPARTMENT 2
TERRY HALPIN, JUDICIAL ASSISTANT/TRANSCRIPTIONIST
CANDACE L. KIMMET, LAW CLERK

PO BOX 35027
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59107
PHONE: 406.256.2906
FAX: 406.256.2970

January 31, 2013

House Judiciary Committee
Rep. Krayton Kerns, Chairman
Rep. Jerry Bennett, Vice-Chairman
Rep. Margie MacDonald
Rep. Mark Blasdel
Rep. Virginia Court
Rep. Alan Doane
Rep. Jenny Eck
Rep. Clayton Fiscus
Rep. Jenifer Gursky
Rep. David Halvorson

Rep. Ellie Boldman Hill
Rep. Sarah Laszloffy
Rep. Dennis Lenz
Rep. Ryan Lynch
Rep. Jerry O'Neill
Rep. Carolyn Pease-Lopez
Rep. Keith Regier
Rep. Bridget Smith
Rep. Kirk Wagoner
Rep. Wendy Warburton

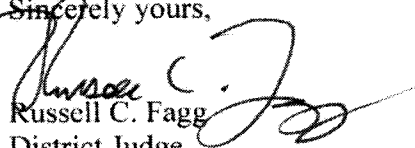RE: HB 330

Dear House Judiciary Committee Members:

I requested HB 330. Last summer at a State Bar meeting, a committee I am on was discussing how to help self-represented litigants (an increasing portion of the cases in front of us) and address identity theft and privacy concerns in a simple manner, without additional paperwork. HB 330 is the result of those discussions.

HB 330 protects Social Security numbers, dates of birth, and financial account numbers, which are a necessary part of dissolution and parenting plan cases, by no longer requiring this information to be in pleadings filed that are open to the public. This sensitive information, which can lead to identity theft issues, will now only be required in the Vital Statistics form, which is already sealed under current law.

I have requested a couple of amendments, one requested by CSED and one requested by my fellow judges. These amendments simplify this bill, and still meet the goals of the bill. Please support these two sets of amendments. The bill also cleans up a couple of minor ancillary matters, including how the Guardian *ad Litem* distributes his report and how a Court Services Investigator would distribute a report.

Please support HB 330, with the amendments.

Sincerely yours,

Russell C. Fagg
District Judge